

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
May 3, 2006**

Doug Tucker (Los Alamos county Fire Department) reported that construction of the fire station in White Rock has begun. Also, the moisture that was received recently has reduced the fire hazard, if only temporarily. Doug also reported that the Defensible Space Days was a success and presented information to the public on reducing fire hazards on private property. Finally, Doug thanked the Los Alamos Monitor for recently publishing the IWMT Fire Prevention Message. Many thoughtful comments were received by those who read the message.

Gene Darling (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) announced that severity support has been received. Also, Manny L'Esperance and Lawrence Garcia have been surveying the fire hazards in portions of Los Alamos Canyon.

Randy Balice (Emergency Operations Office, LANL) distributed the Wildland Fire and Climate Change Declaration that was drafted by the Association of Fire Ecology. The AFE will continue to accept comments to this declaration, which will be distributed in final form at the AFE Fire Congress in November. For more information or to submit comments, contact Randy at 505-665-1270.

Sam Loftin (Ecology Group, LANL) announced the East Jemez Resource Council meeting tomorrow at 9:00 AM in the Ecology Group Conference Room. The EJRC meeting will feature presentations on the recovery from the Cerro Grande Fire by Greg Kuyumjian, and the results of the 2005 bark beetle survey by Debra Allen-Reid.

Lawrence Garcia (Santa Fe National Forest) anticipates the implementation of Stage 2 restrictions, unless the current fire hazard levels improve significantly.

Claudia Standish (Santa Fe National Forest) reported that a toll-free phone number will be established to provide information to the public on prescribed fires, the wise use of fire, and other wildland fire information.

Marla Rodgers (Bandelier National Monument) has brought in a third engine crew for support at TA-49.

Gary Kemp (Bandelier National Monument) introduced Joe Colwell, who will serve as the temporary fire information officer. Gary also reported that only 2 inches of precipitation have been received at the Bandelier Fire Tower since October, and most of that was received during the month of October. As such, the precipitation for the current water year is only 13 percent of normal and only 3 percent of normal for the past three months.

Phil Taylor (Los Alamos County Emergency Management) is obtaining a radio broadcast system for Los Alamos and White Rock that will enable the distribution of public

information announcements on the AM radio band. The announcements can be updated remotely.

The Climate Assessment for the Southwest project (CLIMAS), located at the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, University of Arizona, reports through its April 2006 Outlook that most of the Southwest remains in severe or extreme drought, which is likely to persist, due to the long-term precipitation deficits. This and the abundant fine, dry fuels point to a very active fire season from grasslands to higher elevation timber. Experts predict increased chances of warmer-than-average temperatures through September and equal chances of precipitation through June. Ongoing La Niña conditions are expected to continue over the next one to three months. For more information, see

<http://www.ispe.arizona.edu/climas/forecasts.html>

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, May 17, at the EOC (TA-69, Building 33) in the Fire TAC Room (124). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.